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been attended to by the members in charge, and the loss from decay greatly lessened. This collection had already suffered to such an extent, that when it came under the supervision of the Section it was found to be of but little or no value as a scientific collection. What typical specimens it ever contained that were of special importance had been destroyed or transferred to other places, and the remainder was on a sure course of destruction for want of care. Under these circumstances the Section placed it under lock and key, and while bestowing upon it all the care of which it is in need, reserves it for use in the museum with such other specimens as may, from time to time, be added thereto.

When it is considered that the gentlemen who have in charge the Entomological Collection now in this building, have no leisure from their daily avocation, and are compelled to devote their evenings to the work, it will be realized that progress must necessarily be slow; but, for the first time in the history of the Academy, the collection is now safe beyond depredations of any sort.

At the meeting of the Entomological Section, held December 9th, the following named persons were elected officers for the year 1879.

<i>Director</i>	.	.	.	.	.	John L. LeConte, M.D.
<i>Vice Director</i>	.	.	.	.	.	George H. Horn, M.D.
<i>Recorder</i>	.	.	.	.	.	J. H. Ridings.
<i>Treasurer</i>	.	.	.	.	.	E. T. Cresson.
<i>Publication Committee</i>	.	.	.	.	.	George H. Horn, M.D. Samuel Lewis, M.D.

All of which is respectfully presented,

J. H. RIDINGS,

Recorder Ent. Sect.

REPORT OF THE BOTANICAL SECTION.

The vice director of the Botanical Section has pleasure in reporting to the Academy that the work of this department has been very satisfactory during the past year, considering the means at its command. One member has resigned during the year, and four elected, making a list of thirty-two at the present time.

The Recorder's report shows that meetings have been held every

month during the year, August excepted. At these meetings verbal communications have been made by Prof. Rothrock and Messrs. Redfield, Stevenson, Potts, Canby, Burk, Martindale, Scribner, Griffith, and Meehan. Of these, Mr. Stevenson's, on the Valsei of the United States, Mr. Griffith's, on *Aspidium aculeatum*, and Mr. Potts's, on the mechanism of the flowers of *Stapelia* and *Asclepias*, have been accepted for publication in the Proceedings of the Academy. Some of the other more important matters introduced to the notice of the Section have been reported to the general meetings of the Academy, and published by the general committee in its proceedings.

The report of the Conservator gives so clear an account of the condition of the Herbarium, that it is submitted entire, and while the vice director is sure the Academy will be gratified with the account of the progress made, he may take occasion to say that the good work is mainly due to Messrs. Redfield, Burk, and Schimmel, with such occasional assistance as Prof. Rothrock, Mr. Scribner, the writer of this, and Mr. Parker, outside of his duties as curator of the Academy, were able to render.

The officers elected at the last meeting, to serve for the ensuing year, are:—

<i>Director</i>	Dr. W. S. W. Ruschenberger.
<i>Vice Director</i>	Thomas Meehan.
<i>Recorder</i>	Isaac Burk.
<i>Corresponding Secretary</i>	Isaac C. Martindale.
<i>Conservator</i>	John H. Redfield.
<i>Treasurer</i>	Jose O. Schimmel.

Respectfully submitted,

THOMAS MEEHAN,

Vice Director.

Conservator's Report.—Since the last annual report of the Conservator was made to the Botanical Section, the work of arranging the plants of the Herbarium in genus-covers has been completed, and the collection is now in a condition to be accessible and useful to students. The preparation of order tablets for the general Herbarium is suspended for the present, awaiting the appearance of the next portion of Bentham and Hooker's *Genera Plantarum*.

The additional case needed for the North American Herbarium

has been provided by the Academy, and the space now at our disposal, though none too large, enables us to make a creditable and convenient display of our present representation of the Flora of North America. Mr. Isaac Burk has kindly devoted such time as he could command to the arrangement of this part of our collection, and to the distribution in their places of the new accessions. The preparation of the order tablets is now being rapidly pushed to completion, in which work we have had essential assistance from the Academy's efficient curator in charge, Mr. Charles F. Parker.

In proportion as the pressure of this preliminary work has abated, we have been enabled to give some attention to the important task of revising and elaborating the abundant and rich material of our collections. As already reported to the Section in fuller detail, the Conservator has, during the year, worked up the Ferns of both the General and North American Herbaria, and these are all now properly determined, labelled, and mounted, numbering over nine hundred species. Those of Dr. Short's Equatorial Herbarium yet need an examination and revision. This will soon be undertaken, and when completed the Conservator hopes to present a catalogue of this division.

Mr. M. S. Bebb, who has for many years made a specialty of the study of the North American willows, and who is now engaged in elaborating their species for the Flora of North America, and for the Botany of California, having kindly offered to make a critical examination of this difficult and perplexing genus, the Academy authorized us to accept his offer, and he has carefully revised the specimens of our North American Herbarium. And Prof. Rothrock has done us the additional favor of mounting them, and putting Mr. Bebb's critical notes in shape for permanent preservation. The willows of our general herbarium have been recently submitted to Mr. Bebb for the same service.

To our fellow-member, Mr. Wm. M. Cauby, we are indebted for the revision and mounting of the species belonging to the leguminous genus *Baptisia*, and while he has been thus useful to us, it is a satisfaction to know that our material has been of service to him in preparing the revision of this genus which he is about to publish.

Mr. F. L. Scribner, of Girard College, a member of the Section, who has devoted himself to the study of the grasses, has kindly undertaken to arrange and mount this difficult and extensive por-

tion of our collection, and has already entered upon the work, and from the careful, thorough, and conscientious study which he is giving to it, we may expect the best results.

In all these revisions the original determinations and tickets are carefully preserved, together with the notes of the revisor, whose work can, therefore, at all times be tested.

We should add that Mr. Sereno Watson, of the Cambridge Herbarium, has revised for us the species of *Cupressus* and *Iris*, detecting many errors, and supplying valuable notes.

It is to be hoped that thus in time the aid of specialists will bring order out of confusion in other portions of our collection.

In the month of April the Academy received a large collection of plants consisting of nearly three thousand species, mostly European and East Indian, from the Herbarium of the late John Stuart Mill. These were presented by Miss Taylor, through the director of the Royal Gardens, Kew, and were obtained through the kind offices of Dr. Asa Gray.

From Prof. George E. Post, of the American Protestant College, Beirut, Syria, has been received in return for Colorado and Utah plants furnished by the conservator, upwards of four hundred species from the maritime and mountain districts of Syria, and from Algeria, of which nearly one-half were new to our collection, and further accessions are promised from the same source.

All of these large additions, with others specified in the annual list of donations, have been thoroughly poisoned by Mr. Charles F. Parker, and their distribution to the proper places upon our shelves, has made large demands upon the time and labor of the Herbarium Committee, and these demands have been promptly and cheerfully met.

Additions to Botanical Museum and Herbarium, 1878.

Feb. Isaac C. Martindale; cones and twigs of *Pinus mitis*, Mx., collected by him near Moorestown, New Jersey, and 50 species of phanerogamous plants from New Zealand.

A. L. Siler, of Osmer, Utah, through Mr. Meehan; foliage and cones of *Pinus aristata*, Engelm.

John H. Redfield; 15 species of plants from Utah and California, mostly new to the collection.

March. A. Commons, Centreville, Del.; *Galium hispidulum*, Mx., from Cape May, New Jersey—the first notice of it in that State.

- C. F. Parker; *Pogonia affinis*, Austin, from Closter, N. Y., and *Pyrola oxypetala*, Austin, from Deposit, N. Y.—the author's type specimens with his original notes attached.
- April. M. S. Bebb, Fountaindale, Ill.; 13 species of North American willows.
- Dr Asa Gray, Cambridge, Mass.; about 3000 species of European and East Indian plants from the herbarium of the late John Stuart Mill, presented by Miss Taylor, through the director of the Royal Gardens, Kew.
- Do.; 168 species of plants from China, India, Australia, California, etc., mostly new to the collection.
- John H. Redfield; 22 species of flowering plants from Southern Utah, and 20 species ferns, mostly new to the collection.
- Charles F. Parker; *Schizœa pusilla*, Pursh, from Toms River, New Jersey, and *Botrychium lanceolatum*, from Closter, N. Y.
- Isaac C. Martindale; *Bromus brevi-aristatus*, Wats., from S. W. Utah.
- May. Conchological Section of the Academy; 54 species of Californian marine algæ, collected by Henry Hemphill.
- September. Dr. Asa Gray, Cambridge, Mass.; 160 species of plants, mostly from Oregon and California.
- Prof. Joseph T. Rothrock; a suite of the collections made by himself and Prof. John Wolf, on Col. Wheeler's explorations in Colorado and Arizona in 1873, consisting of 335 species, all mounted.
- October. Mrs. J. Elwood Cooper, of Santa Barbara, California; ten species of ferns, from vicinity of Santa Barbara, all choice specimens.
- Dr. George E. Post, of American Protestant College, Beirut, Syria; in return for Colorado and Utah plants, furnished by J. H. Redfield; 212 species of plants from the maritime districts of Syria; 82 species from the mountain region of the same; 126 species from Algeria, a large proportion new to us.
- November. Isaac C. Martindale; 1st Century of Ellis's North American Fungi, neatly mounted in bound volume.
- John H. Redfield; 53 species ferns collected in the island of Trinidad, by Dr. A. Fendler in 1877-78, and named by Prof. D. C. Eaton; also *Nymphæa flava*, Leitn., and *Baptisia calycosa*, Canby, a new species, both collected in

- Florida, by Mary C. Reynolds; and *Camptosorus rhizophyllus*, collected on Round Top, battle-field of Gettysburg.
- December. Thomas Meehan; *Polypodium falcatum*, Kell., and *Oenothera graciliflora*, collected by Mrs. Briggs in Washington Territory.
- T. S. Brandegee, Canon City, Colorado; 8 new species of Fungi from Colorado, named by Prof. Peck.

REPORT OF THE MINERALOGICAL SECTION.

The Director of the Mineralogical Section of the Academy of Natural Sciences would respectfully report, that meetings of the Section have been held every month except July and August; the attendance has been fair. At nearly every meeting new facts of importance have been brought forward and discussed, so that there has been no lack of interest.

The donations for the year have been numerous, and many of them valuable. The items will be found attached to the report of the Curators of the Academy.

The increase of the cabinet may be deemed entirely satisfactory.

The Director would also call attention to the fact that a full catalogue of all the minerals in the collection has been made by Mr. Charles F. Parker during the year, who also has completed the relabelling of all the specimens, works of great labor most satisfactorily performed. In addition to this, Mr. Parker has prepared a list of minerals lacking in the collection. By distribution of this, it is believed many of the vacant spaces may be filled by gifts of the needed species.

Some progress has been made in the local collection of rocks and minerals, but much remains to be done. It is purposed to make a list of desiderata in this collection for distribution.

By voluntary contribution of members of the Section, a Canfield Trimmer has been purchased and presented to the Academy.

Several new localities of minerals have been for the first time announced through the Section.

Respectfully submitted,

THEO. D. RAND,

Director.